

BRONX APARTMENTS SEIZED FOR WAVES

613 Families in 13 Buildings Near Hunter to Lose Homes When Navy Moves In

The government moved suddenly and effectively yesterday to obtain the use of thirteen apartment houses in the neighborhood of the Bronx buildings of Hunter College as quarters for the Waves and Spars candidates who will be trained at the college. The apartment buildings, present abode of 613 families, will be emptied by Feb. 20. The belongings of present tenants will be moved without cost to them.

The present occupants of 2766 and 2800 University Avenue, 80 and 85 Strong Street, and 2755 Reservoir Avenue, will be required to move to new homes by Jan. 31, but in this they will receive assistance both from the Navy and from the New York City Department of Housing and Buildings, according to an announcement by Rear Admiral E. J. Marquart, commandant of the Third Naval District.

Feb. 20 is the deadline for the departure of tenants from the other eight buildings: 2751, 2761, 2769, 2785, 2791 and 2805 University Avenue, 95 West 195th Street, and 88 West 197th Street.

Announcement of the leasing of the Hunter buildings was made on Sunday, when it was revealed that the place would become a "boot camp" at which six-week courses of basic training will be given to women of the Navy and Coast Guard auxiliary services.

The apartments, which were taken over yesterday by order of Federal Judge John W. Clancy, will serve eventually as living quarters for upward of 5,000 trainees. They occupy land overlooking the Jerome Park Reservoir, just east of Sedgwick Avenue and a short walk from the college campus. Compensation for the use of the properties will be discussed at

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a hearing set by Judge Clancy for April 30, at the instance of Harry T. Dolan. Mr. Dolan, a Federal attorney, presented the petition which resulted in the condemnation of the apartments for government use. The occupancy which technically began yesterday is to continue to June 30, 1943, after which it may be renewed annually.

Admiral Marquart disclosed that at the request of Mayor La Guardia, the city housing department had surveyed apartments available for tenants ousted from the prospective dormitories. Within a radius of two miles of their present homes, Admiral Marquart said, these persons may choose from 1,900 other apartments. Arrangements for moving the furniture of these tenants will be made whenever the tenants are ready, it was said. Both the Navy and the housing department will have representatives in special offices on the premises, to aid in the finding of new quarters.

Cooperation Is Urged

In a letter to these families Admiral Marquart wrote:

"It is absolutely essential that the tenants comply with the time limits as set forth above, for failure to do so would seriously delay the training program. While the Navy Department regrets the inconvenience caused, you will have the satisfaction of making a direct personal contribution to the war effort which will hasten the victory which is to come."

From his office in Gillet Hall, on the Bronx campus yesterday, Captain William F. Amsden corrected earlier reports that the new training school which he is to conduct would begin courses on Feb. 1. The first trainees, numbering about 2,000, probably will arrive Feb. 15, he said. Thus the Navy will have a two-week period in which to make ready the five apartment buildings that are to be vacated by civilian tenants on Jan. 31.

At the moment, Captain Amsden and his secretary, Ruth Beffre, yeoman third class, are the only naval representatives on the campus, but eventually the staff will number about 500. Few physical changes are contemplated in the college plant, Captain Amsden said, but the cafeteria in Student Hall will be rebuilt, and a large excavation known as "the sunken gardens" will very likely be filled, although not with the administration building formerly planned for the site.

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